

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Students turn heads on Bourbon Street

By Wayne Vandiver, director  
NEMCC Baptist Student Union

If you ever need to get in contact with anyone from the Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) on the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend, you are likely to find them on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

The NEMCC BSU takes a mission trip to Bourbon Street every year on that weekend, to distribute Gospel tracts and witness to people on Bourbon St. and in the French Quarter. One of the tracts they hand out is entitled, How to Get to Heaven from New Orleans.

On January 16-19, eighty-one students and four BSU directors went to New Orleans to share the Gospel with people on this well-known party street. The group tried something new this year which really proved to be fruitful. Some students carried signs that stated, "If you are born once, you will die twice. If you are born twice, you will die once."

People on Bourbon Street are hard to talk to, but the signs appealed to their curiosity. People stopped in the middle of the street and stared. Many came over to the sign-bearer to ask what it meant. The BSUer would then share the story of Nicodemus where Jesus told him, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

This is the ninth year the NEMCC BSU has taken this trip, and there are several constants

each year: part of the group stays at Vieux Carre Church located one block off Bourbon Street while the rest of the group stays at Williams Boulevard Church in Kenner, and the group always carries a large cross to the street to hold up as hundreds of people pass by each night.

go on this trip that are new to sharing their faith, and most are scared to death. However, after a couple of hours on Bourbon Street, the students acquire a boldness in sharing that they did not have when they arrived.

The Holy Spirit uses this situation to teach students some valuable lessons. They

always come back from Bourbon St. with a higher appreciation of their parents, home, and salvation. They also have their hearts broken over a world they have never encountered before; there is nothing like talking to a person who is so spiritually blind that he cannot seem to understand that Jesus is his only hope.

They also learn that the Holy Spirit will give them the words to say if they will just obediently open their mouths. When students return, they always admit that witnessing to someone back home will be "a piece of cake" compared to witnessing on Bourbon Street.

Many students who have gone on to senior college from NEMCC

ask if they can go on this trip again. Those who ask usually bring some senior college friends with them.

Seven people prayed to receive Christ as a result of this year's trip. The students who went have all testified to how God used this experience to change their lives. What was learned in the "laboratory" will hopefully be practiced on their campuses.

NEW ORLEANS MINISTRY — Spreading the Gospel in New Orleans during the Martin Luther King Jr. school holiday in January were Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC) freshmen (from left) Chrystal Fisackerly, Josh Mallard, and Abby Murdock. The New Orleans mission trip has become an annual event for current and former members of the NEMCC Baptist Student Union (BSU) and their friends from BSU programs on other Mississippi campuses. The 2004 trip was the ninth trip in a row sponsored by the NEMCC BSU. (BR special photo by Ed Earnest)



### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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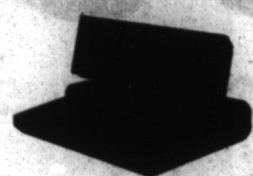
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# American entertainment: out of control

So it's come to this. In order for broadcast television to be clean enough for family viewing during the family hours set aside by the Federal Communications Commission, a five-minute delay had to be instituted by CBS during Sunday evening's Grammy Awards show from Los Angeles.

The entertainment industry in America has gotten so far out of control that nervous telecasters had to sit during the whole telecast with their finger on a button that would bleep out any crude or nauseating content before it hit the public airwaves. So defiant are the perverse entertainers of this generation that they can't control their behavior long enough to accept the music industry's highest awards.

Had such a system been in place for this year's sex-charged Super Bowl halftime show, many millions of families in the U.S. and around the world would have been much better off. Although the Janet Jackson/Justin Timberlake breast-baring incident has garnered most of the criticism for the over-the-top MTV production, there was plenty more action on the stage to offend most everyone.

Prior to the appearance of Jackson and Timberlake, rapper Nelly seemed to be masturbating through his clothes as he belted out one of his hits. At the least, he couldn't keep his hands off his crotch during his song set.

Prior to Nelly's appearance, rocker Kid Rock kicked off the halftime show wearing a tattered America flag cut into a poncho-type top — technically a violation of federal law (United States Code, Title 4, Section 8, paragraph "j"). He sang a few lines, then ripped off the flag and threw it behind him. Thankfully, a stage hand caught the flag/poncho before it hit the floor of the stage.

The list goes on and on. At last year's Grammy Awards, U2 lead singer Bono boldly uttered the ultimate vulgarity. Aging pop diva Madonna shares open-mouth lesbian kisses on national television

with soloists Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. Even the attire at these shows gets more outrageous every year. No award show would be complete these days without slutty, expensive dresses split to the navel in the front and to who-knows-where in the back.

Who watches these shows? Impressionable young people, of course. Why then do these keepers of the culture try so hard to stoop lower and lower every year? Because they really think that's what America looks like.

Many entertainment industry bigwigs today have utter contempt for the people who live in "flyover country" — the area of the United States between New York City and Los Angeles. They think of this portion of the country as a vast cultural and societal wasteland populated by toothless hicks and religious fanatics who don't know good entertainment when they see it.

They truly believe that their lifestyles should be showcased and emulated by the rest of America, because they think they are America. They truly believe that we should be more tolerant of baby killers, misogynists, sexual perverts, and America-haters, because that's where they are in their thinking. They are proud of themselves and those who take up their lifestyles (Romans 1:32). They truly believe that we will continue to accept any vomitus they choose to send into our living rooms.

We could prove them wrong, you know. Hollywood, like any other industry, must make money to survive. If Christians would spend their money on more appro-

"COME ON BACK TO CHURCH, POP. IT'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE YOUR PREACHER FUSSSED AT YOU FOR WATCHING THE BEATLES ON ED SULLIVAN!"



priate entertainment products and ignore all the worst offerings, we could send a powerful message to Hollywood. It wouldn't be long before the industry's investors and stockholders would be sufficiently nervous to inquire as to why movies, television shows, CDs, and video games weren't selling. We can be assured that, not long after those questions begin to be asked, changes will be forthcoming.

Until Christians do their part, however, there will be no changes. We can get involved, or we can sit back and watch this country's great culture continue to disintegrate at the hands of people who don't understand us. Those are really our only two choices.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *I saw the movie and read the Book!*

By Chondra Pierce  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Ever since the word got out that Mel Gibson was producing a new Jesus movie, pastors, Christian artists, and speakers have been shuffling about, prodded by their flocks, trying to take a leader-like position, most without ever having seen the movie. So here's my official movie review since I saw the movie and read the Book:

The room was filled with some of the biggest names in the Nashville entertainment industry: producers, songwriters, TV and radio personalities, print media, publicists, country music artists (with a few Christian music folks thrown in) — not a typical night at the movies for my husband and me. Then again, this isn't a typical movie.

Country music entertainer Ricky Skaggs began the night with a prayer that the movie would change people. He nodded to someone in the back of the room. The lights went out and the movie started. Less than 10 minutes later you could hear sobs across the room.

As the story unfolded and the brutality of what we were watching set in, you could not only hear tender sniffs but moans — mourning, I think. I

heard a weeping voice say, "I'm sorry, Lord. Forgive me, Lord." I will never forget it — the sobs and moans of us in the room mingled with the pain played out on the screen. Our cries became part of the soundtrack.

When the movie was over, no one moved. It was as if the room could not take a breath. A few minutes passed and a man stepped up to the microphone as the lights came on and quietly asked, "Do you have any questions?" Still silence.

Then he said, "Well ... maybe Mel could answer your questions." Mel Gibson walked in the room and we stood and clapped but he shook off the applause, fanned it away, then sat on the steps to the platform and raked his fingers through his hair —

kind of quirky, as if embarrassed because we kept clapping.

When asked what his goal is for the movie, what he hopes people will glean from it, he said, "I hope they watch the movie and want to read the Book. I hope they are changed."

When asked what he's doing to "combat the persecution," he said, "You know, I just pray for my enemies. I don't pray for curses on their heads. I pray the good angels will go beat up the bad angels that are making them say and do evil deeds."

To tell you the truth, I thought his innocent understanding of spiritual warfare was refreshing. Here's a man who spent millions of dollars of his own money, risked his reputation and laid his career on the line.

I can tell you this: This is a brutal movie. To express artistically what Christ went through, you have to be brutal. Some in the Christian community seems up in arms about that — an "R"-rated, Jesus movie — but if an R rating were the sole criteria for missing this movie, then in the name of consistency I would also suggest that pastors not preach any sermons about David, Moses, Adam and Eve, Paul, Noah, or Peter. Get my point?

Maybe Christians who oppose this movie are looking for a more touchy-feely expression of our faith. We want to woo the public with words like "love" and "grace" and a tender understanding of mercy and compassion.

After viewing the movie, my pastor took a deep breath and said, "Yes, I'm going. And I'm taking as many people with me as I can." (Which is remarkably similar to what he says about heaven!)

Chondra Pierce is a Christian comedian. For more information on her ministry, go to [www.chondra.org](http://www.chondra.org). Pierce's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



# NAMB ends female chaplain endorsements

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees on Feb. 4 approved a policy change that will end chaplain endorsements of women to positions requiring a "fully qualified member of the clergy" or that have a "role or function similar to that of a pastor" — including, primarily, chaplains in the military and a few other federal institutions.

Chaplains currently serving would not be affected unless they changed to a different category of service.

The change came at the recommendation of a special task force appointed by Reccord in response to a motion at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last June. The motion was related to NAMB's 2002 decision to stop endorsing all ordained women — while still endorsing women who are not ordained. Two senior U.S. Navy chaplains moved at the 2003 SBC that the board require all military chaplains seeking endorsement be ordained, based on a concern that NAMB's refusal to endorse ordained women could result in unqualified military chaplains.

NAMB chairman Terry Fox, pastor of Immanuel Church in Wichita, Kan., said the Feb. 4 policy change was based on the realization that military chaplains — more than those in other categories of service — often function in the role of pastor. Consequently, he said, it is appropriate not only that they be ordained, but also that they be men in accordance with the current Baptist Faith and Message statement of faith.

Currently 196 women are among approximately 2,500 chaplains endorsed by NAMB. Of those, 20 are military chaplains, and seven others serve the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Department of Veterans's

Affairs, which have policies requiring a "fully qualified member of the clergy." Most women chaplains under NAMB endorsement serve in health-care and counseling roles.

Trustees also appointed 40 new missionaries, endorsed 27 new chaplains, and heard an update from President Robert E. (Bob) Reccord on the board's efforts to impact the United States and Canada with the Gospel.

Chuck Allen was elected as NAMB's chief operating officer (COO) and Carlos Ferrer as vice president of finance and organizational services. Meanwhile, Mike Day will direct strategic initiatives, while Randy Singer will become special assistant and chief counsel, a part-time position.

Allen, who previously served as chief of staff for Reccord, will coordinate the work of the board's executive leadership team and handle administrative affairs. Those responsibilities previously were assigned to Singer as executive vice president. Reccord has eliminated the position Singer has held and divided its responsibilities between the new COO and Singer's new position.

Allen came to NAMB in 1996 after serving as executive pastor of First Church in Snellville, Ga., and as a successful business leader.

Singer, a trial lawyer who came to the board five years ago, will continue to handle NAMB's legal affairs as well as a number of external responsibilities, including his present roles with state partners, FamilyNet and trustees.

Reccord announced that Mike Day, currently vice president of organizational develop-

ment, will assume the position of vice president of strategic initiatives being vacated by Gary Frost. Frost has accepted a call to serve as director of missions for the Metropolitan Association of New York City.

Before joining NAMB in 1996, Day served as vice president of the former Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

His new responsibilities will include NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities emphasis, associational missions services and NAMB's leadership and training initiatives.

Trustees elected Carlos Ferrer, currently chief financial officer, to replace Day as vice president of finance and organizational services. Ferrer is a native of Cuba who fled the communist country with his family in the 1950s and was ministered to by Southern Baptist churches in Texas. He is a certified public accountant who joined the former Home Mission Board in 1992 after three years as vice president of business affairs of the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio and 12 years in secular accounting positions.

During his report to trustees, Reccord reiterated his concern for the nation's 41 million young adults ages 18-29, a generation he said Southern Baptist churches and the denomination are in danger of losing in places of leadership.

After outlining some of the unique characteristics of the emerging generations that make up the group, he said NAMB is making special efforts to design new initiatives to evangelize and mobilize them to respond to God's call on their lives.

Reccord said he has been inspired by the response from participants in NAMB's Elevate 2004 conference in Dallas in January. The confer-

ence, also slated for the Charlotte (N.C.) Convention Center Feb. 19-21, is designed to help young adults see their career as part of God's call.

"It has been absolutely remarkable," he said. "If we don't unleash the workforce and understand that the church is more impactful Monday through Saturday than it is gathered on Sunday, we're not going to change North America."

Reccord also said NAMB's ability to send missionaries has been hampered by a lack of funds to respond to the needs that exist. He noted that the purchasing power of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has been flat since 1983.



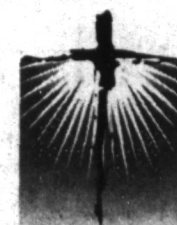
Allen



Reccord



Ferrer



MISSISSIPPI  
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THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

## Record

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## Halftime lawsuit filed

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An individual has filed a class-action lawsuit against Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake, MTV, CBS and Viacom seeking compensation for herself and millions of viewers who were "injured" by the lewd behavior of the halftime show during Super Bowl XXXVIII. Terri Carlin, a bank worker, filed the suit in federal court in Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 3. In it she claims, "All of the defendants knew that the Super Bowl, the preeminent sports event in the United States, would be watched by millions of families and children. Nevertheless, defendants included in the halftime show sexually explicit acts solely designed to garner publicity and, ultimately, to increase profits for themselves." The plaintiff is asking for punitive damages not to exceed the combined gross revenues of all defendants over the last three years. Carlin filed the suit on behalf of all Americans who watched the Super Bowl and "were caused to suffer outrage, anger, embarrassment, and serious injury," according to the court document. "Families have an expectation that they can trust companies and individuals such as the defendants not to expose families to sexually explicit conduct during broadcasts of prime time events such as the Super Bowl," the suit states. Ritchie, Fels & Dillard, the Knoxville law firm representing Carlin, provided the following statement to Baptist Press: "In keeping with the letter and the spirit of the rules of court, neither Miss Carlin nor this office will be doing any interviews at this time. Further, the issue here is accountability, not more publicity."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Fresh from three weeks of record-setting meal preparation for victims of the January 17 Los Angeles earthquake, Mississippi disaster relief volunteers are redeployed to Cleveland to serve meals to Deltans reeling from the state's worse ice storm in 20 years.

### 20 years ago

Lloyd Elder is installed as the seventh president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. He pledges that the board will give top priority to assisting churches in winning a lost world to Jesus Christ. Elder succeeds the retiring Grady C. Cothen.

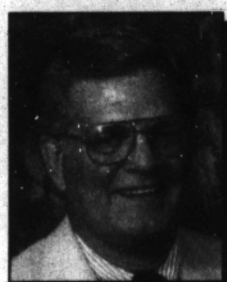
### 50 years ago

W. L. Meadows, pastor of First Church, Quitman, celebrates his 20th anniversary as pastor. During those 20 years, the church received 980 new members by letter and baptism. An Admiral Console model TV was presented to the pastor and his family.



## N.O. assoc. prof dies of heart failure

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Jim Headrick, 61, associate professor of pastoral counseling at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) died suddenly of heart failure on Feb. 4.



Headrick

"Dr. Jim Headrick was a faithful friend, a passionate preacher, and an excellent teacher. We will deeply miss him," said Chuck

Kelley, NOBTS president.

Headrick, a Baton Rouge native, received his bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College in Pineville and earned master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from NOBTS. In 1999, after serving two years as assistant professor of psychology and counseling at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Headrick joined the NOBTS faculty, occupying the Baptist Community Ministries Chair of Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Headrick is survived by his wife of 40 years, Linda, two daughters, one son, and two grandsons. Funeral services for Headrick were Feb. 7 at First Church, New Orleans, where he was a member. New Orleans Seminary will hold a memorial service at the Leavell Chapel in the near future.

# Acteens set convention March 5-7 at WCC

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — The Mississippi Acteens Convention, a missions celebration weekend for girls in grades seven through 12 and their leaders, will convene at William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg on March 5-7. The theme is, Life or Something Like It.

Membership in an Acteens organization is not required for attendance. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms have been mailed to Acteens leaders. Deadline for registration is February 20. Registration fee of \$24 per person includes Saturday lunch, a T-shirt, and the program fee. Each group is responsible for other meals and lodging.

Program guests include:

- Kym Mitchell, Acteens curriculum editor at Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham.
- Sharon Thompson, MAG writer at WCC.
- Linda Middlebrooks, Rachel Sims Baptist Center in New Orleans.
- Beth Everett, music composer and choral director from Atlanta.
- WCC Drama Team.
- Mississippi's State Acteens Panel.

Worship celebrations will include music, drama, messages from missionaries, and testimonies from Acteens. Missionary conferences will provide learning experiences to understand places, people, and culture of places where missionaries work. Acteens/missions conferences will help conferees learn more about missions opportunities for Acteens and Acteens leaders.

A carnival for children from the neighborhood surrounding WCC, a hands-on mission ministry project, will involve Acteens on Saturday afternoon in the gym at the college. Each group of Acteens has been asked to choose a game or two and to bring everything needed for their game. Some groups will do face painting; others will do clowning. Some will serve drinks and popcorn. All of this is planned to provide an afternoon for Acteens to respond to all they have learned during MAC sessions by making Him known to children who need to know Him.

To obtain registration forms or for more information, contact Kathy Burns at Mississippi WMU. Telephone: (601) 292-3324 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 324. E-mail: kburns@mbcb.org.

The Mississippi Acteens Convention is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

# MAC 2004

MISSISSIPPI ACTEENS CONVENTION

MISSISSIPPI ACTEENS CONVENTION

MARCH 5-7, 2004

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE

HATTIESBURG

## THE PASSION

For weeks, in fact for months now, there has been an ongoing stir about a movie that is going to be released nationwide, and in some ways worldwide, on February 25. That begins the 40 days leading up to Easter that is generally known as Lent and The Passion of the Christ is supposed to be the most realistic and awesome portrayal of the death of Jesus.

Over the years the word *passion* has changed in its primary usage. For most people today to hear the word *passion* will call to mind some emotion usually related to a love relationship. Yet, the English word *passion* actually came into our language from the French and it expressed not so much just emotion but suffering and pain. That is the reason that for centuries now the death of Jesus has been referred to as His *Passion*. It is the reason that in Acts 1:3 (KJV) it says, "To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs." It is expressing that Jesus rose again from the dead after He suffered and died.

So, here is what is about to happen. The wonder of the love of God poured out to us in Jesus Christ, whereby He would literally go to the cross and take our sins upon Himself, is about to be unleashed to the worldwide community. There is controversy and there is reason for celebration. Still, God can use the message regardless of the context. I think of the Apostle Paul as he writes to the church at Philippi. In chapter 1, verses 15-17, he says, "Some



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife and some also of good will. The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds. But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the Gospel." The apostle's concern was that Christ be preached!

What does The Passion of the Christ mean for us today? Well, for one thing it means **opportunity**. It is an opportunity for believers to see and visualize the awesome agony that Jesus went through just for us. If you sit and look at the movie and say a hundred times, "He did that for me!" you will only scratch the surface of understanding God's love! I hope you will attend. I have not seen the movie, but everyone that has that I have any respect for says, "See it and let God speak to your heart!"

I would point out that some have said that children 12 and under might not need to attend but, of course, that will be a significant parental decision. I also realize the movie is rated "R." It received that rating not because of vulgarity but because of violence. Please understand that when you see it, the violence that is portrayed

is the very picture of what sin always does. Sin is a vicious and violent thing! What you see pictured in the movie in Jesus' death is the destructive power that is running rampant throughout our society, our world, our schools, our homes, our towns, and even our churches. It is violent and all that sin and its destructiveness could do was taken out on Jesus as He died for you.

When you think about an opportunity, what better thing could you do for someone who may not know the Lord than to invite them, encourage them, and even take them to see what took place for their salvation. Many churches are planning special evangelistic efforts and I am convinced that the Lord is going to use multitudes of individuals who will have opportunity to take someone to see the movie in order that they might understand and experience what Jesus did for them.

Also, in addition to an opportunity, The Passion of the Christ will bring **opposition**. Rest assured that Satan will not be pleased with this presentation! He is never in favor and will always seek to oppose anything that honors Jesus. I am confident that

there will be those who will be speaking out loud and long, vociferously and viciously attacking The Passion of the Christ. We must live beyond the opposition! We must pray that the victorious message of Christ will reverberate above any noise Satan might make!

This brings me to a third thought about The Passion of the Christ and that is related to the **obligation**. It will be up to the Christian community to stay focused correctly related to this movie. This film is not about Hollywood! The movie is not about Mel Gibson and his characterization of Christ! The movie is not about the Roman soldiers and how they crucified Him, or the Jews and the part that they played in having Him killed! This movie is about Him — about Jesus! Whatever aspect that someone grabs hold of and whatever particular issue the media touches on will be irrelevant compared to the fact that Jesus Christ, God's Son, suffered, bled, died, was buried, and triumphantly rose again for the saving of all souls!

We have an obligation to keep the attention on the redeeming love of God poured out in Jesus Christ. The film must not be about the gimmicks in movie making and it must not be about anti-Semitism or the cruelty of ancient Rome, but it must be centered on the God of incredible love whose Son suffered for us!

May God bless you and use you to be a blessing to others as they see and experience The Passion of the Christ.



# MC restructures College of Arts, Sciences

CLINTON, Miss. (Special) — Beginning June 1, Mississippi College (MC) will restructure the school's College of Arts and Sciences into the School of Science and Mathematics; the School of Christian Studies, Communication, and Fine Arts; and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, according to a press release from the Baptist-affiliated institution of higher learning in Clinton. The leaders of the new schools will be:

- **Stan Baldwin**, dean of the School of Science and Mathematics. He received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky.; a master's of divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary; masters of arts in philosophy from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky.; and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.



Baldwin

Baldwin has done postdoctoral research in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Kentucky and the Neuroscience Department at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He serves as chair of the MC Biology Department and is an adjunct professor of anatomy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He is married to Cathy Baldwin, and they are both members of Northminster Church, Jackson.

- **John Meadors**, dean of the School of Christian Studies, Communication, and Fine Arts. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest University in Wake Forest, N.C.; a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth; and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary



Meadors

in Louisville, Ky. He completed additional studies in philosophy at the University of Kentucky. He serves as associate professor of Christian studies at MC.

Meadors was chosen MC Professor of the Year for 1998-99, and Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer in 1997. He has been the recipient of a John Templeton Foundation

Grant and participated in a Templeton Summer workshop on Science and Religion at St. Anne's College in Oxford, England.

He is married to Susan Hooks Meadors, and they are both members of Northside Church, Clinton.

- **Debbie Pierce**, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She received a bachelor of arts degree from MC; a master of arts degree



Pierce

from Mississippi State University in Starkville, and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Pierce was named the Distinguished Alumna for the MC Department of Foreign Languages. She serves as director of the Foreign Language and International Trade Program, and director of the Study Abroad Programs to France, Spain, Brazil, and the British Studies Summer Program.

Pierce serves as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and professor of French at MC. She was chosen as MC Distinguished Professor of the Year by her peers in 1998, and was the Distinguished Arts and Sciences Faculty Lecturer in 2001.

She is married to Philip Pierce, and they are both members of Northside Church, Clinton.

## New Orleans Seminary notes Mississippi grads

NEW ORLEANS (Special) — A number of New Orleans Seminary students with Mississippi connections received degrees during graduation ceremonies on December 20:

- **Grace Jean Cranford "Cissy" Beard** of Columbia received the certificate in church music. She is minister of music at Cedar Grove Church in Columbia, which is also her home church.

- **Jeffrey Wade Box** of Greenville received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degree. Box, senior pastor of Suburban Church in New Orleans, lists his home church as Riverport Church, Greenville.

- **Emily Louise Bradford** of Long Beach received the master of divinity degree in psychology and counseling.

- **Charles Thomas "Chuck" Brister** of Winona received the master of arts in Christian education degree in youth ministry. His home church is First Church, Winona.

- **Kenneth Ray "Kenny" Culpepper** of Kosciusko received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degree. He is pastor of Mountain Creek Church, Florence. His home church is First Church, Ridgeland.

- **Joshua Phillip "Josh" Daffern** of California received the master of divinity degree. He is minister of youth and missions at First Church, Picayune. His home church is First Church, Picayune.

- **Shannon Allen Davis** of Lexington received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry and the associate in Christian ministry degree. His home church is Oak

Grove Church, Lexington.

- **David Barrett Eastland** of Pearl received the master of theology. He will serve as adjunct faculty at New Orleans Seminary. His home church is First Church in Kenner, La.

- **Rebecca Ann "Becky" Gamber** of Meridian received the certificate in church music. She is music director at Eighth Avenue Church in Meridian. Her home church is Briarwood Church, Meridian.

- **Christy Lynn Green** of Meridian received the certificate in church music. She is children's choir director of Briarwood Church, Meridian. Her home church is Briarwood Church, Meridian.

- **Laura Leathers** of Pickens received the advanced women's ministry certificate. She is women's consultant for Holmes Association in Lexington. Her home church is Main Street Church, Goodman.

- **Johnny L. Martin** of Greenville received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degree with a minor in biblical studies. He is pastor of Oral Church, Sumrall. His home church is Oral Baptist Church.

- **Larry Thomas McEwen** of McComb received the doctor of ministry degree in leadership and administration. He is pastor of Northshore Church in Slidell, La. His home church is Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg.

- **Elizabeth Anne Campbell McGraw** of Woodville received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry; women's ministry certificate; and the advanced women's ministry certificate degree. She is church secretary at Woodville Church, Woodville, which is also her home church.

- **Don Michael "Mike" McKee** of Meridian, received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degree with a minor in biblical studies. He is youth pastor of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto. His home church is Oak Grove Church, Meridian.

- **Gary Don Myers** of Calvin, Okla., received the master of divinity degree. He is director of public relations at New Orleans Seminary, and is married to the former Kimberly Oglesbee of Diamondhead. His home church is First Church, Calvin, Okla.

- **Philip G. Price** of Calhoun City received the master of theology degree in Christian education. He is minister of youth and education of Wade Church, Wade.

- **Jeffrey Jay "Jeff" Rankin** of Pascagoula received the master of theology degree in Old Testament. He is pastor of The Lord's Church in Kentwood, La. His home church is First Church, Gautier.

- **David Lee Sheppard** of Laurel received the bachelor of general studies degree with a minor in Christian education. He is an evangelist in Laurel. His home church is Highland Church, Laurel.

- **David Blake "Blake" Shipp** of Austin, Texas, received the doctor of philosophy degree in New Testament. He is pastor of New Henleyfield Church, Carriere. His home church is Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas.

- **John Leslie "Les" Walton** of Hattiesburg received the master of divinity degree in psychology and counseling. His home church is Autumn

Ridge Church, Hattiesburg.

- **Martha Renee "Renee" Wheeler** of Newton received the master of arts in Christian education degree. Her home church is Cedar Grove Church, Newton.

- **Jimmie L. "Jim" Windham** of Hattiesburg received the certificate of pastoral ministries. His home church is Maybank Church, Hattiesburg.

- **George "Morris" Wolfe** of Brandon, received the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degree. He is pastor of Lakeshore Church, Florence, which is also his home church.

- **Kimberly McCarty "Kim" Woodlief** of Fernandina Beach, Fla., received the master of arts in Christian education degree in children's ministry. She is the daughter of Marion McCarty and the late Joseph McCarty of Ellisville. Her home church is Amelia Church, Fernandina Beach.

- **Jeremy Lewayne "Lee" Yancey** of Brandon received the doctor of ministry degree. He is a consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission in Jackson. His home church is First Church, Quitman.

- **Paul Wilson Young** of Foxworth received the master of divinity degree. He is pastor of County Line Church, Ovett. His home church is Foxworth First Church, Foxworth.

One of the world's largest accredited seminaries, New Orleans Seminary offers associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in biblical studies, theology, pastoral ministry, church history, Christian education, counseling, and music. It is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Akin tapped; Moore selected as replacement

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Daniel L. Akin became the sixth president of Southeastern Seminary (SEBS) in Wake Forest, N.C. on Jan. 15 with a unanimous vote of the seminary's board of trustees.

Akin, who previously served at Southeastern as assistant professor of theology and dean of students from 1992-1996,

was vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., a position he held until his return to Southeastern.

After earning a bachelor of arts in biblical studies degree from Criswell College in 1980,

Akin went on to earn both a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth in 1983 and a doctor of philosophy in humanities from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1989.

Akin has served as pastor at 10 churches in Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Virginia in both interim and full-time capacities. He has also authored articles and several books.

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. named Biloxi native Russell D. Moore, 32, to replace Akin. Moore, who will also serve as senior vice president for academic administration, most recently served as an assistant professor of theology at Southern and as executive director of the seminary's Carl F.H. Henry Institute for Evangelical Engagement. Moore earned his Ph.D. from Southern Seminary.



Akin



Moore



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

Central Church, McComb, presented Sandy Cammack with roses and a monetary gift in honor of her fifth anniversary as secretary. She is the Area VII Representative of the Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association. Pictured (from left) are Tracey Hipps, pastor, and Cammack.



Tracey Hipps, pastor & Sandy Cammack

Fair River Church, Brookhaven, held a Lottie Moon Christmas Club September through December 14. The club collected \$11,401 with an additional \$3,115 taken up two Sundays. The total given was \$14,516. Pictured are some of the members with their Christmas Club booklets.

River Church, Brookhaven, held a Lottie Moon Christmas Club September through December 14. The club collected \$11,401 with an additional \$3,115 taken up two Sundays. The total given was \$14,516. Pictured are some of the members with their Christmas Club booklets.



Fair River Church, Brookhaven

Martin, Philip Jones, Marty Wilson, pastor, Futral, Joe Styron, Frank Vaughn, and Jeanette Ainsworth.

Jane Hayes, Mike and Ginger Winter, Ed and Melvina Taylor, and John and Linda Ruffin. Greg Potts is pastor.

Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive, honored their deacons with a special service on Deacon Emphasis Sunday January 1. Pictured (from left, kneeling) are Steve Sanford, James Roberts, (standing) Zack Sanford, Charlie Anglin, Charlie Cone, Billy Ray Jones, James Rodgers, Elton Flynt Jr., Gregg Kelly, Earl Flynt, and Marcus Burnham, pastor.



Deacons of Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive



150th Anniversary Celebration of Cato Church, Mendenhall

Cato Church, Mendenhall, ended a year long celebration of their 150th year with Jim Futral, MBCB, leading in worship and presenting Cato with a certificate and a framed print on December 14. Pictured (from left) are Billie-Jean Martin, Eddie Robinson, Dawn Ainsworth, Lynda Callender, Ralph

December 2-5. They visited Fantasy in Ice, went on a cruise and dinner, and attended a Rockettes show. The attendants were Mickey and Jeanette Davenport, Paul and Myrrah Smith, Doug and Betty Shore, Cliff and Betty Allen, Delores Parker, Helen Parker, Bob and

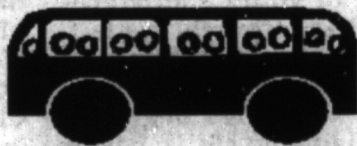
The Young at Heart Senior Adults of First Church, Vancleave, attended the Light Up Your Christmas senior adult conference at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.



Young at Heart Senior Adults of First Church, Vancleave

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~ Schedule of Services ~

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Monday thru Wednesday Noon Services 12:00 - 12:55 PM • Free Meal • Speaker: James Messer

Monday thru Wednesday Evening Services begin at 6:30 PM

Children's Worship Services Sunday thru Wednesday with Director John Yates

### Other Conferences in 2004

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September 12-15 • EBC Florence, MS • Pastor Dwight Smith

October 24-27 • Cypress Shores, FL • Mobile, AL • Pastor Randy Johnson

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Glen Crane, pastor & Aaron Close

The GAs, RAs, and Acteens of Shiloh Church, Oxford, sent paper products, soap, and washing powder to the Baptist Children's Village Reedy Acres, Water Valley. Pictured are the GAs, RAs, and Acteens.

The children's Sunday School of Horseshoe Church, Tchula, recently gave an offering for Lottie Moon. At the end of December their gifts totaled to

\$166.13. Pictured (from left) are Mary Margaret Johnson, Ty Johnson, and Kathryn Everett.

A Special recognition meal was given January 10 in honor of Ed McCaskill's 25 years of service in the Seafarer's Ministry, Pasacagoula Port. McCaskill was presented a leather bound Bible by Bob Storie, the previous Port Chaplain. Adrian Turner, the new Seafarer's Director, was presented with the Chaplain's

helmet. Charles Rodgers, Jackson County AMD, acknowledged Storie's and McCaskill's years of ministry.

Bethel Church, Columbus, ordained Jody Smith as deacon November 16. Pictured (from left) are Walter Butler, pastor, and Smith.

Glen Crane, pastor, presented Aaron Close of Ruth Church, Ruth, with his certificate in his

call to the ministry. Close has been the children's director for one year. Pictured (from left) are Crane and Close.

Glen Crane, pastor of Ruth Church, Ruth, recently presented Ray Covington to the membership on his announcement of a call to the ministry.

First Church, Madison, is sponsoring Parenting Our Parents February 22 and 29 at 5 p.m. in room 216. Rick Courtney will lead. The seminar will cover

asset protection planning; long term healthcare and incapacity planning; eligibility requirements for Medicare, Medicaid and other sources of healthcare financing; advance directives and living wills for healthcare and end-of-life decision-making. Advanced registration is helpful. The seminar is free and open to the public. Call (601) 856-6177, ext. 207.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing featuring the Goldenaires Quartet February 21 at 6 p.m.

Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, will have a dedication service, for their renovation of the Sunday School building, February 15 at 10:45 a.m. Guests include Carless Evans, former pastor, and Wayne Edwards, Lauderdale AMD. John R. Koch is pastor.

Southside Church, Vicksburg, presents Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames February 22-24 at 7 p.m. The nursery and a children's program will be provided.

Wade Church, Moss Point, will host a James E. Messer Evangelism Bible Conference February 22-25. Services will be held Sunday at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; and Monday-Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m. Pre-session music begins 30



Walter Butler, pastor and Jody Smith



GAs, RAs, and Acteens of Shiloh Church, Oxford

minutes prior to services. Bill Barton is pastor. For more information, call (228) 588-3356.

First Church, Edinburg, will host a singing featuring The Gospel Echoes, Pearl, February 22 at 6 p.m. Admission is free but a love offering will be taken. All are welcome. For more information, call (601) 267-4250.

South McComb Church, McComb, set a goal of \$3,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The total given was \$5,062.58.



Children's Sunday School class of Horseshoe Church, Tchula



Crane, pastor & Covington

## Homecomings & Revivals

**Strong Hope, Wesson:** Revival Feb. 15-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon-Fri, 7 p.m.; Don Graham, Clanton, Ala., evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; David Crowe, pastor; for more information, call (601) 894-4355.

**First, Magnolia:** Revival Feb. 17; Tuesday, 7 p.m.; David Ring, Franklin, Tenn., evangelist; Barry Ward, pastor.

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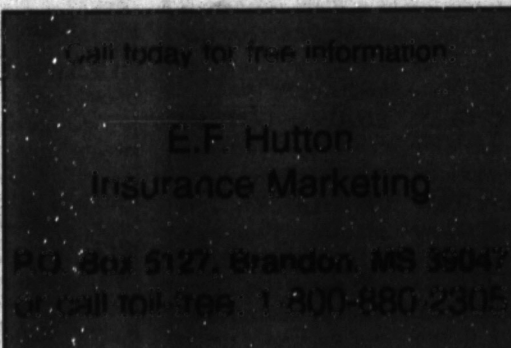
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## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



Ron Seal & Kay Cater

The William Carey College Psychology Department will offer students a Sign Language and Application class beginning in February. The spring trimester class will end May 13. The class will meet on Thursdays from 6-9:45 p.m. For more information,

call (601) 318-6122. Non-Carey students can contact the admission office at WCC to register for the course.

An early 1950s Clarke College reunion will be held October 9 in the Board Room, BC Rogers Student Center, on the Mississippi College campus, Clinton. Students, faculty, and staff are invited. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. with conclusion at 3 p.m. Lunch is not included. For more information, call (601) 924-1097, (601) 605-4973, or (601) 605-6128.

The Board of Ministerial Education of the MBCB awarded the William Washburn Scholarship to William Carey College student Joe Marsh, a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Marsh is a junior religion major and theatre minor at WCC. He serves as interim pastor at Leaf River Church, Collins. Pictured (from left) are Daniel Caldwell and Marsh.



David Caldwell & Joe Marsh



Blue Mountain College Clean-Up Day

The Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing at William Carey College received a pledge of \$25,000 from Wesley Medical Center to be used for scholarships and faculty development resources. The scholarships will be awarded to nursing students who exhibit academic excellence and a commitment to community service. Pictured (from left) are Wesley Medical Center CEO Ron Seal with Kay Cater, interim dean of the WCC School of Nursing at the hospital, Hattiesburg.

Over 120 Blue Mountain College students, faculty, and staff spent their MLK Day performing acts of service in Tippah and Union Counties. Rather than having a day off,

service participants had a day where they painted houses; washed windows; and cleaned yards, houses, government offices, libraries, a police station, and a cemetery. Pictured are those who worked at the Blue Mountain City Hall. They are (from left) Lydia Moore, Kim Sides, Jack and Tracey Moser, Johnnie Armstrong, and Tracy Rice.

Mississippi Valley State University students gathered on Super Bowl Sunday at the Baptist Student Center, Greenwood. This collegiate ministry is directed by Bobby Fisher, Jr. of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood. There are currently 20 students who are active members.



Miss. Valley State University BSU Super Bowl Party



**THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE** currently has an opening for a single woman to fill the position of live-in child care worker. The position is full-time with good salary and benefits. Please contact Peggy Taylor at (601) 922-2242 or ptaylor@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

**BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING** part-time music director. We are seeking someone that is spiritually called. Call Mrs. Carol Moore at (601) 544-1567 or send resume to 510 Maple Drive, Petal, MS 39465. Or Mrs. Annette Smith at (601) 264-6623 or send resume to 410 Lamar Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

**FULL-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY** needed. Parkway Baptist Church, Hernando, Mississippi. Send resume to 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. **MINISTER OF MUSIC - RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH** in Jackson,

MS, is prayerfully seeking an individual for the full-time position of Minister of Music. Resumes and applications should be mailed to: personnel committee, Raymond Road Baptist Church, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Rev. Tommy Anthony is pastor.

**CROSS ROADS BAPTIST CHURCH, IN PELAHATCHIE, MS,** is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Resumes should be sent to Cross Roads Baptist Church, 104 Crossroads Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145. For more information, call (601) 546-2267.

**CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH** in Brandon, MS is seeking a mature christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to: 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email paula@castlewoods baptist.com.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WALNUT RIDGE, ARKANSAS** is accepting resumes for pastor. Masters degree preferred; 5 years pastoral experience required. Send resumes by 3/1/04 to P.O. Box 3476, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476.

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**ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES** is seeking a house parent couple or single for the children's home in Monticello. Call Randy Luper at (870) 367-5358. Salary, employee medical & life insurance, etc. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes is an agency of the AR Baptist State Convention. ABCHomes is compliant with Section 504 of the Rehab. Act of 1973.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Kevin Meador**, evangelist and the president of The Prayer Closet, is available for revivals, prayer evangelism, prayerwalking workshops, and equipping churches for prayer ministry. He can be reached at (601) 635-2180 or [www.prayer-closetministries.org](http://www.prayer-closetministries.org).



**Meador**

Steele Church, Forest, recently hosted a 60th wedding anniversary reception for retired minister **Cartis Tucker** and his wife **Geraldine** (pictured). Family and friends joined them at this celebration.

The **GAs of Oakvale Church, Oakvale**, celebrated the GA 90th birthday recently. Pictured (from left, front) are **Makayla Morgan**, **Amber Gill**, **Cadie Durr**, (back) **Stacey Holden**, **Alex Yeatman**, **Gina Neal**, and **Brittnie Jordan**.

**RAs Drew Brown**, **Noah Bowlin**, and **Alex Brown** were recognized in November by South McComb Church, McComb, for memorizing 25 verses of scripture as part of the RA Program. **Andrea Miller** and **Wade Brown** are RA leaders.

**Ted Bowlin**, pastor, was recognized by South McComb Church, McComb, for 5 years of service. **Waymon Watkins** presented **Bowlin** with a special resolution along with a love gift from the church.

Hope Sunday occurred February 1 at **Fernwood Church, Fernwood**. Pictured are **Tommye Lou Cutrer**, cousin and executrix of the will of **Hope Simpson**, presenting a check to **Royce Williams** and **Buster Turnage** in June 2002 when **Simpson** died. **Simpson** left a large part of her estate to Fernwood Church. She designated a portion to be used for the youth and remainder left to church discretion. **Simpson** was honored with this memorial service and a fellowship meal.

**Montgomery Church, Bogue Chitto**, recently held a note burning celebrating the paying off of the fellowship hall.

Pictured (from left) are **Hyland Brumfield**, **JC Vaughn**, **Glen Moak**, **Tim Parker**, **David Moak**, **Steve Sasser**, **Wayne McCarty**, and **Charles Moak**.

**Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive**, gave a special recognition for perfect attendance to the first students to complete the new Christian Class on January 11.

Pictured (from left) are **Hannah Roberts**, **Bryson Hall**, **Lilly Hall**, and **Marcus Burnham**, pastor.



**Montgomery Church Note Burning, Bogue Chitto**



**GAs of Ellistown Church, Union County**



**H. Roberts, B. Hall, L. Hall, and M. Burnham, pastor**

The **GAs of Ellistown Church, Union County**, began a project in January 2003 to collect a mile of pennies, 84,480 pennies, for the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. With church help, they collected 87,000 pennies and gave \$870 to help reach the church goal of \$9,000. The church exceeded their goal by giving \$13,104.71. Pictured (from left) are **Jamie Benefield**, **Sara Speck**, **Carol Coker**, **Julie Bruce**, **Jane Roberts**, and **Anna Hutson**.



**RAs of South McComb, McComb**



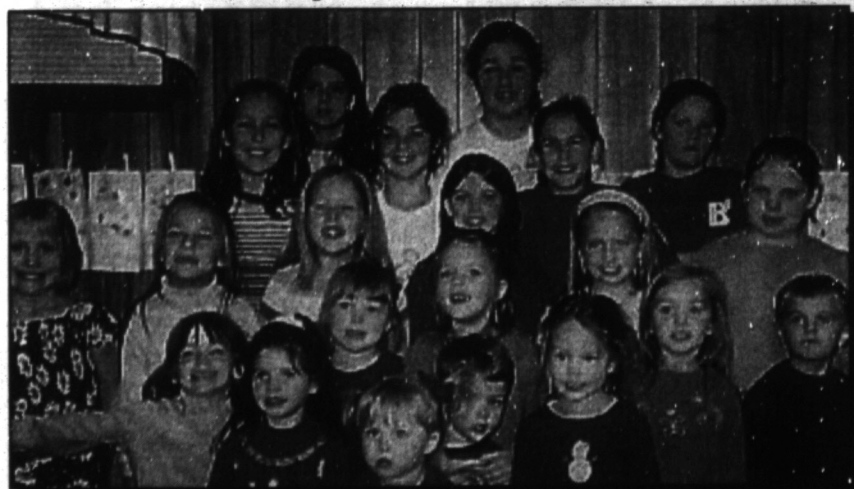
**Bowlin, pastor & Watkins**



**Geraldine and Cartis Tucker**



**GAs of Oakvale Church, Oakvale**



**Mission Friends & GAs of New Prospect Church, Brookhaven**

The **Mission Friends and GAs of New Prospect Church, Brookhaven**, joined efforts to collect 276 coloring books and 86 packs of crayons for the **Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital** in December. Pictured are the **Mission Friends and GAs**.



**Cutrer, Williams, and Turnage**

## OBITUARY

**Gena Wall Calcote**, 84, of Wesson, died January 23.

She was an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Japan. A Louisiana native, **Calcote** and her husband,



**Calcote**

**Ralph V. Calcote**, of Lincoln County, were appointed by the IMB in 1951. She served as a church and home outreach worker in Kitakyushu, Nagoya, Tokyo, and Fukuoka. They retired in 1986. **Calcote** was a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, and the Woman's Missionary Union Training School, Louisville, Ky. Prior to missionary appointment, she served as a caseworker with the public welfare department, Amite, La., and with The Children's Agency, Louisville.

She is survived by her husband; three daughters; and two sons.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### LIBRARIAN NEEDED

Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) is in need of a librarian who will be responsible for the daily operations of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Collection in the Leland Speed Library at Mississippi College in Clinton. The librarian also oversees the Mississippi College archives. The position is a full time faculty-level appointment with all benefits, and requires a master's degree in library science from an American Library Association-accredited program. If the readers of the Baptist Record know of a qualified person who might be interested in this position, please have them contact me at (601) 925-3279 or newman@mc.edu. Information on the position is available at [www.mc.edu/administration/PER/jobs.html](http://www.mc.edu/administration/PER/jobs.html).

Susan Newman, Chair  
MBHC Search Committee  
Clinton

### IN APPRECIATION

Editor:

This is in response to your January 29 editorial entitled, "A most valuable member of the team." I thank you for the editorial. Many pastor's wives are forgotten or just overlooked, but they are a rare breed of woman. They encourage, lift us up, and love us all no matter what.

We thank our pastor's wife for the sacrifices she has made. She has stood by her husband for 51 years, sometimes being his right arm, and they have raised four kids

along the way. I want to say to her: Thank you for all the things you do that we never see, and for your warm smile and hug when you greet us. We probably don't tell you enough, but we love you, Ms. Fannie, and keep you in our prayers. Bro. Bill, you did marry well!

Marilyn Dillard  
Cairo Church, Ecu

### SHORTFALLS WILL INCREASE

Editor:

I would like to respond to Lenward Lee's letter entitled, "Criticism Undue," in the January 29 issue of The Baptist Record. One of the definitions of criticism is, "the act of passing judgments as to the merit of anything."

Lee identified two problems: fracturing of the Convention and budget shortfalls. These problems are critical as evidenced by repeated accounts published by various media. Jerry Rankin (president of the International Mission Board) is administering a program funded by volunteer contributions from local churches. A change in funding is usually a last resort after other means of communication have been unsuccessful.

One of the big issues of controversy is requiring missionaries to sign the latest Baptist Faith and Message. That change has generated a lot of controversy and there is a real question as to the overall agreement by Southern Baptists to that change. This change was adopted by a vote where less than twenty thousand messengers were in attendance and the vote was not unanimous. To try to impose a minority opinion

on our missionaries is bound to result in controversy rather than cooperation.

The Convention was organized and the Cooperative Program was established on the principle of cooperation rather than control. The current attitude seems to lean more toward control than cooperation and unless there is a change in attitude, budget shortfalls will increase as cooperating churches reject attempts at control.

Ken Pickens, interim pastor  
Palmetto Church, Tupelo

### WONDERFUL REVELATION

Editor:

I would like to comment on the January 29 Guest Opinion, "When faith hangs by a thread," by Retha Mayfield. What a wonderful revelation of God's love in ministering to believers in the most extraordinary ways.

In Exodus 3:1-5, the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and the bush wasn't consumed. He told Moses to put off his shoes for he was standing on holy ground.

In his book, Principles and Practice of Preaching, Illion T. Jones writes, "Wise and fortunate is the preacher who early in his ministry learns that sermons come from the common things of ordinary life about him."

Mayfield saw much more than meets the eye. The visible revealed the invisible (Romans 1:20). When that tiny thread of faith starts to break, "Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10). Thank for a good message.

Courtney Griffin  
Eupora

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



G. Steward, Tim & Brandi Bass, and T. Tyre

Arron McGuffe, a fourth generation pastor, was ordained to the ministry January 25 at Highland Church, Natchez. Jay Advance and David McGuffe, McGuffe's father, preached the ordination messages. McGuffe attends NOBTS and has been called as pastor of Cliff Temple Church, Natchez. Pictured (from left) are David McGuffe, Arron McGuffe, and Bruce McCall.

DeSoto Church, Shubuta, recently ordained Dewayne Crane to the ministry. Crane currently serves as pastor of Coyt Church, Waynesboro. Pictured (from left) are Jim Smith, pastor of DeSoto, and Crane.

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, ordained Freddie Shirley as deacon December 14. Pictured (from left) are Darrell White and Shirley.



White & Shirley

David Rogers was ordained into the ministry December 7 by the Ethel Church, Ethel. Pictured (from left) are Chester Carlisle, pastor, Rogers, and Jim Ballard. Rogers is currently serving as Youth Pastor.

Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc Association, held ordination services for their new pastor, Tim Bass, January 25. Pictured (from left) are George

Steward, Bass and his wife Brandi, and Titus Tyre.



Carlisle, pastor; Rogers, and Ballard

## STAFF CHANGES

David Fedele has been called as full-time vocational evangelist effective in January.

He previously served as associate pastor of students and college at Highland Church, Laurel.

He is a graduate of William Carey College. Fedele is available for preaching revivals, Bible conferences and crusades, and youth ministry events. His ministry, Globe Outreach, pursues an active role in world evangelization. He may be contacted at 967

Service Road, Laurel, MS 39443. Telephone: (601) 729-5654.

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has called Joseph Robinson as minister of music effective January 4.

First Church, Cleveland, has called Chuck Brister as student minister effective January 25.

He has served churches in West Point and West Memphis, Ark., and is a graduate of NOBTS.

Brister



Fedele



Smith, pastor; and Crane



D. McGuffe, A. McGuffe, and B. McCall



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Disciplined Bible Study

Joshua 1:6-9; Psalms 1:1-6; 2 Timothy 2:15-16

By Ken Anderson

During Super Bowl XXXVII, FedEx ran a commercial that spoofed the movie Castaway, in which Tom Hanks played a FedEx worker who was stranded on a desert island for years. The FedEx employee in the commercial goes up to the door of a suburban home, package in hand. When the lady comes to the door, he explains that he survived five years on a deserted island, and during that whole time, he kept this package in order to deliver it to her. She gives a simple thank you. He is curious about what is in the package. He says, "If I may ask, what is in that package?" She opens it and says, "Oh, nothing really; just a satellite telephone, a global positioning device, a compass, a water purifier, and some seeds."

(Citation: Bill White, Paramount, California)

Like the content in this package, the Bible contains resources not only for survival but maturing in Christlikeness. This lesson is the third in a five part series on spiritual disciplines. The focal passages demonstrate the values of a disciplined lifestyle of Bible study.

### BE SUCCESSFUL JOSHUA 1:6-9

The nation of Israel was rising on a new era in their national history. In their past, Moses was the leader. With memories of the Red Sea and the wilderness, they turned to Joshua to lead them beyond the Jordan and into the land of Canaan. God directed Joshua to be strong and of good courage in the forthcoming battles and in keeping the Law of Moses (vs. 6-7). Joshua was challenged to be strong and of good courage in



Anderson

being faithful to God's word (v. 6). Their future success was conditioned by their total obedience to God's law. This discipline was directly related to attaining God's kind of success. The discipline included meditation that resulted in applying God's revelation to its place in their lives. This discipline continues to be the basis for successful growth in Christ.

### BE BLESSED PSALMS 1:1-6

Psalms begins with a beautiful beatitude. The blessings or happiness of a righteous man is described by three negatives. First, he does not walk in ungodly counsel. Second, he does not stand with the lifestyle of the wicked. Third, he does not sit or participate in the actions of scoffers (vs. 1-2). The words walk, stand, and sit show the progressive actions of sin. This man's happiness was because of his delight in the Scriptures. He understood the Scriptures to be applicable to all areas of life and meditated on it day and night

(v.3). The man's blessing is like a transplanted tree that is secure and strong. It brings forth fruit in season and is not deterred by the loss of leaves (v. 3). In contrast, the wicked are not so. God knows their activities and their inability to stand in God's judgment (vs. 4-6).

### BE DILIGENT 2 TIMOTHY 2:15-16

Paul warned Timothy of false teachers whose delight was to debate religion rather than live it. The church conditions in Ephesus required Timothy to continually remind and warn the church of the harmful result of such debates. They were misleading; produced no profit, and ruined the hearers (v. 14). Timothy is urged to be diligent, to do his very best, or have an urgent zeal toward this problem. He is reminded to seek God's approval rather than man's. To this end, he is to rightly divide or cut straight the word of truth (v. 15). The discipline required to handle the word of truth would result in effectively correcting the false teacher's misinterpretation of the truth.

### INSIGHTS FROM THE TEXT:

**It Takes Time:** In the hectic lifestyle of our culture, many do not view Bible study as an important discipline. The Bible is a living Bible and God speaks volumes in times of heartache, grief, loneliness, and anxiety through His word.

**It Takes Wisdom:** The wisdom derived from disciplined Bible study could avoid much church heartache. Consistent Bible study can result in one becoming more and more loving, forgiving, prayerful, etc.

**It Takes Actions:** Discipline does not happen in a vacuum but requires disciplined actions such as daily Bible reading, a personal Bible study plan, faithful study of the Sunday school lesson, memorizing scripture, Winter Bible Study, and taking notes on sermons, etc.

**It Takes Resources:** Lifeway has made available the following resources: God's Transforming Word: How to Study Your Bible by Thomas D. Lea and Living God's Word: Practical Lessons for Applying Scripture to Life by Waylon B. Moore.

Anderson is pastor emeritus of First Church, Saltillo.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Be Wise About Sexual Purity

Proverbs 5:3-14, 20-23; 6:23-24, 27-29, 32-34

By Ann Maniscalco

Ron and Debbie's new home was located in a lovely neighborhood, but the traffic on their street was quite heavy at times. Since they had two small children, they decided to enclose the yard with a chain-link fence. Now let's think a minute. Was the purpose of that fence to imprison their precious children, or to protect them? The obvious answer — because the parents love their children, they set a boundary for their safety and well-being.

God has gifted humans with a strong sexual desire for the purpose of pleasure and procreation. However, this blessed union according to His word is to be reserved for the fence of the marriage union. The wise person will save himself much heartache if he views these commands not as restrictions, but as protection

from the disastrous results one suffers when sexual purity is not maintained.

### BITTER DECEPTION (PROV. 5:3-6):

Who is the forbidden woman? The Hebrew word can mean to turn aside and also adulteress. The one who turns aside to a relationship with this woman is turning away from God's ideal and heading for disaster. To lure men into an illicit sexual relationship, the woman uses her powers of seduction, applying makeup to increase her attractiveness (her lips drip honey) and uses her speech (smoother than oil) to tease and flatter her prospective lover. The person so entrapped may enjoy the pleasures of sin (Heb. 11:25) for a brief time, but later will experience bitterness and pain (v.4).

Following this woman will lead to spiritual devastation.



Maniscalco

She has turned away from the path of life (vs. 6), and has become spiritually blind. When one continually refuses to honor and follow God, He allows this (see Romans 1:18-25).

### COMPLETE RUIN (PROV. 5:7-14):

Solomon calls his son to pay close attention to what he is saying, and not just brush it off. The youth is warned to keep his distance from the beguilements of such a woman. Both men and women should be extremely careful not to get into compromising situations. Romans 13:12-14 instructs Christ's followers to put on the armor of light and to make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Also Gal. 5:16.)

What can happen physically, socially, and spiritually to the man (or woman) who engages in sexual sin? Verses 7-9 give some scenarios. The best of life will be wasted on one who has no respect for the person; strangers and foreigners will enjoy his resources and earnings (divorce and remarriage could result in child support

being paid to the injured spouse and their new mate); sexually-transmitted diseases could ravage the body. All these will lead to intense regret and shame (vss. 12-14).

### CLEAR DIRECTION (PROV. 5:20-23; 6:23-24):

Verses 15-20 reveal God's wise plan for couple's enjoyment of sex within the marriage, and the foolishness of seeking satisfaction elsewhere. God is ever watchful; even the darkness cannot hide us (Ps. 139:11-12).

Verses 22-23 bring to mind the story of Amnon's rape of his sister Tamar (2 Sam. 13). He strongly desired her; then after his heinous act, he hated her. His brother Absalom planned revenge and had Amnon murdered.

God's teachings provide wisdom for sexual conduct. When heeded, they will protect us from engaging in immorality (vss. 23-24).

### DREADFUL DISGRACE (PROV. 6:27-29, 32-34):

In verses 27-28, readers are confronted with two rhetorical questions having an obvious

"no" answer. Verse 29 brings the comparison home: just as fire and burning coals cause irreparable damage, so does adultery. He who engages in such will experience punishment and destruction. (The word destroy in Hebrew can be translated with such English words as decay, ruin, spoil, and waste.) The guilty one can anticipate a beating and dishonor, lifelong disgrace, and revenge at the hands of an angry husband.

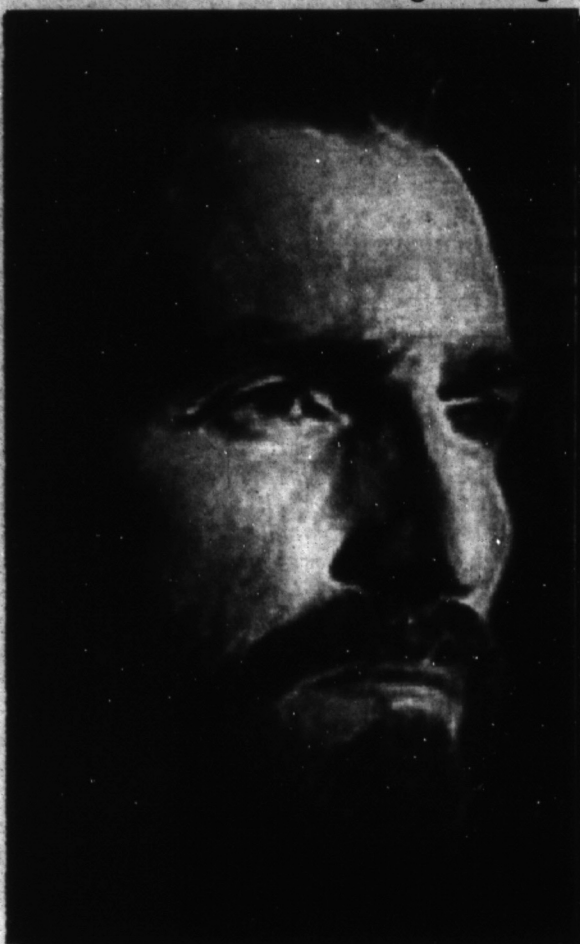
Some reflections on winning the battle against sexual temptation: There's no such thing as innocent flirting; don't engage in it (Prov. 7:21). Beware the lust of the eyes (1 John 1:16); limit what you view to wholesome content. Fill your mind with good things (Phil. 4:8). Focus on God and His word (Ps. 119:9-10). Wisely use leisure time (2 Samuel 11). Stay away from alcohol (Gen. 19:30-38). Have accountability partners (Prov. 27:17). Rekindle the flame in your marriage by finding ways to compliment, encourage, love, and support your spouse (Eph. 4:29 and 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

Maniscalco is member of First Church, Ocean Springs.



# Evangelicals building on movie's potential

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — As the premiere of *The Passion of The Christ* approaches, news of its importance to the evangelical community is spreading and churches are taking advantage of the high-profile motion picture from actor-director Mel Gibson.



**TAKING CENTER STAGE** — At the center of *The Passion of the Christ*, from an eternal perspective, is Jesus. At the center of the drama from a film perspective is actor Jim Caviezel, who portrays Christ in Mel Gibson's upcoming motion picture. (BP photo)

The New York Times published a Feb. 5 article titled, *Some Christians See Passion as Evangelism Tool*, about how many Christians are expecting the film to be as effective an instrument at reaching unbelievers as large-scale crusades have been in the past.

"I don't know of anything since the Billy Graham crusades that has had the potential of touching so many lives," Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said in *The Times* article. "It's like the Lord somehow laid in our lap something that could be a great catalyst for spiritual awakening in this nation."

While *The Passion* promises to pique the interest of many who have otherwise given little thought to Christianity, evangelicals are jumping on the chance to provide answers in various formats. Among the evangelistic resources using *The Passion* theme:

- The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is providing support for churches seeking to offer a witness during the film's screenings around the state. For more information, contact MBCB Evangelism Director

Sonny Adkins at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3279 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 279.

- LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville has launched a new website at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com) to help people and churches communicate the salvation message of the movie. Free content from LifeWay resources such as T.W. Hunt's *The Mind of Christ*, Beth Moore's *Jesus the One and Only* and Daniel Akin's new book, *Discovering the Biblical Jesus*, emphasize the power of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Also available: movie ticket vouchers as well as free fan kits that include posters and other promotional materials churches may distribute in their communities.

A link titled, *Know Him*, walks readers through the steps to becoming a Christian, and a video clip of Beth Moore's *How to Become a Christian* is available for download.

- The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is mailing Southern Baptist churches suggestions for preparation, prayer, and personal witnessing, as well as tools to help follow up with individuals who respond. The same information also is available through [www.PassionChrist.org](http://www.PassionChrist.org), a new NAMB website.

The site deals openly with the issues many churches will have in hoping to see people reached with the Gospel by the movie while at the same time not wishing to offer unequivocal endorsement to an R-rated (for violence) movie.

NAMB also suggests churches bathe the film in prayer, including mentioning the potential of the film to church members at a regular prayer meeting, holding special prayer events and planning prayerwalks at theaters. Members also could be equipped to share their faith through a variety of outreach tools and apologetics resources available for download.

- A new book by Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., seeks to help readers answer key questions about who Jesus really is. The LifeWay book, part of a yearly doctrine series, is titled, *Discovering the Biblical Jesus*.

"When we planned this doctrine study, we had no idea that the movie was being

conceived or that its release would coincide with the book," said David Haney, an editor at LifeWay. "That's something God did. Discovering the Biblical Jesus will equip individual believers and churches to respond to the questions unbelievers will have after watching the movie. Churches can be good stewards of this tremendous opportunity by using the book to make sure believers know who Jesus is and how to explain their beliefs to others."

- Outreach, Inc. has partnered with Icon Productions to produce a four-minute trailer on DVD featuring Gibson talking about his film. The trailer is being sent free of charge to thousands of churches across the country to generate interest in the film and its potential as an evangelistic tool.

The California-based Outreach, Inc. also has set up a website with resources for churches, including 13 ideas on how they can use the film, sermon outlines and suggestions for establishing discussion groups. Churches also can order *Passion*-themed invitation cards, evangelistic booklets, bulletin inserts and doorknob hangers, according to *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*.

To learn more about resources from Outreach, Inc., visit [www.thepassionoutreach.com](http://www.thepassionoutreach.com).

- PAX TV will air a one-hour special, *The Making of The Passion of The Christ*, on February 22 and 24 at 8 p.m. Central Time. The behind-the-scenes look is meant to help viewers understand Gibson's vision for the film, and it will present never-before-seen footage of the actors and directors at work. The special also will feature on-set interviews of the cast and crew and stories of how the sets were created.

- The American Tract Society has produced two tracts answering the controversial question of who killed Jesus. They may be ordered at [www.attracts.org](http://www.attracts.org).

- Larry Poland, chairman of Mastermedia International in California, has written a booklet titled, *Is the Passion of Jesus Anti-Semitic?*

To receive a complimentary copy of the booklet or to bulk order it, send an e-mail to [info@mastermediaintl.org](mailto:info@mastermediaintl.org).

## Bush to announce marriage amendment support

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — President Bush supports a constitutional marriage amendment and it is only a matter of time, perhaps only a few days, before he says so publicly, congressmen and pro-family leaders say.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Feb. 6 quoted Republican Senator John Cornyn of Texas as saying that Bush had told him that he supported a marriage amendment. Bush reportedly made his remarks to Republican members of Congress during a retreat in Philadelphia Jan. 31.

Cornyn said he asked Bush if he supported the amendment. "He said he does," Cornyn told the newspaper. "He was crystal clear to Republican legislators last Saturday in Philadelphia."

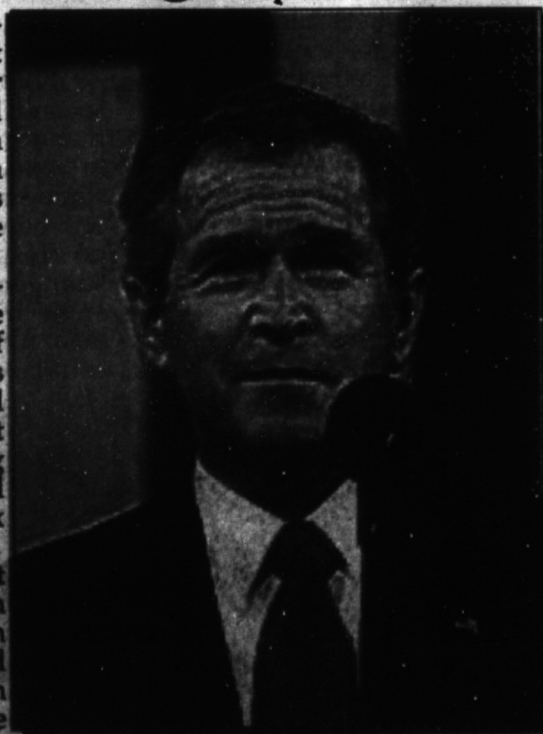
Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said he was told the same thing by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee on Feb. 5.

"Sen. Frist confirmed that for me at the [National] Prayer Breakfast," Land told Baptist Press. "[Bush has] endorsed an amendment and he's endorsed the Musgrave language."

Musgrave is Republican Representative Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado, who has sponsored the Federal Marriage Amendment in the House along with 109 additional sponsors. It has six sponsors in the Senate.

The news about Bush's support began breaking Feb. 4 when conservatives said they had been given assurances the White House was supportive of an amendment.

Focus on the Family's James Dobson recently told his radio audience that Bush is "now prepared to throw the weight of his presidency



Bush

behind the Federal Marriage Amendment."

The ruling by the Massachusetts high court on Feb. 4 may have been the cat-

alyst. In a 4-3 vote the court ruled that Vermont-type civil unions were not an option and that same-sex "marriage" had to be legalized.

"We were given assurances this week that it's no longer 'if,'" Kelly Shackelford, president of the Texas-based Free Market Foundation, told the Star-Telegram. "We were given direct confirmation. This came from the very top at the White House."

Although Bush won't play a direct role in the passage of an amendment, his use of the bully pulpit is considered to be critical. The amendment would have to pass two-thirds of both the House and Senate and then three-fourths of the states.

Every Democrat seeking the presidential nomination to run against Bush opposes the amendment.

For information on the battle over same-sex marriage, visit BP's story collection at: <http://www.bpnews.net/same-sexmarriage>.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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COLAD HB L MNARF

AD CNT ILK NT PNGHRF

WG: LDF INTD NT AP

GRF, NT IARR DGC

FTBLOC VOGU AC.

BOGETOSP  
CITDCK-CIG: PAQ

Clue: B = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle:

Psalms 40:11